

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 13-15 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 1-10 are allowed, and claims 13-15 stand rejected. By this amendment, claim 13 has been amended, and new claims 19 and 20 have been added. This application now includes claims 1-10, 13-15, 19, and 20.

The Examiner has allowed claims 1-10. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-10.

Claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Masanori, Japanese Publication No. 5-186093 (hereinafter, Masanori). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 13-15 in view of the following.

Masanori discloses a load board 1 for loading a cut sheet 2, and a detecting means 3 for detecting the existence and thickness of cut sheet 2 on load board 1 (Abstract, Figs. 1A-1D and 5-7C). An alarm is generated if cut sheet 2 is absent (Abstract). A slot 9 is provided in load board 1, into which a bottom end of an arm 10 may be disposed when cut sheet 2 is absent (Figs. 1B, 1C, and 6). A “C” shaped device 21 having elements 12 and 13 encloses on three sides a flag end 11 of arm 10 opposite the bottom end of arm 10 (Figs. 6 and 7B-7D).

Applicant believes that claims 13-15 patentably define Applicant's invention over Masanori for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 13 is directed to a method for performing print media depletion detection in an imaging apparatus. As amended, claim 13 recites, in part, providing a printhead carrier configured to carry at least one ink jet printhead; providing a mid-frame having a slot; providing a sensor mounted on said printhead carrier and locatable over said slot; and detecting with said sensor one

of a presence and an absence of said sense surface in said slot of said mid-frame as a determination of the depletion of said supply of print media at said print media support.

In contrast to claim 13, the asserted Masanori sensor (elements 12 and 13) is positioned above cut sheet 2 on load board 1 (Fig. 6 and 7A-7D).

However, Masanori simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the asserted sensor is mounted on a printhead carrier configured to carry at least one ink jet printhead, as recited in claim 13.

Rather, the Masanori arrangement includes a slot 9 that is provided in load board 1, into which a bottom end of an arm 10 may be disposed in the absence of cut sheet 2 (Figs. 1B, 1C, and 6), and a “C” shaped device 21 having elements 12 and 13 that encloses on three sides a flag end 11 of arm 10 opposite the bottom end of arm 10 (Figs. 6 and 7B-7D).

It is known in the art that a printhead carrier that is configured to carry an ink jet printhead is a component of an imaging apparatus that translates in a reciprocating manner in a scanning direction for performing printing. For example, in the embodiment described in Applicant’s specification, the printhead carrier is transported in a reciprocating manner along a bi-directional scanning path (see Applicant’s specification at page 4, lines 24-27).

However, since the Masanori “C” shaped device 21, which has elements 12 and 13 that are asserted to be a sensor, encloses the flag end 11 of arm 10 on three sides, it is clear that the “C” shaped device 21 is not a sensor mounted on a printhead carrier. For example, by enclosing the flag end 11 of arm 10 on three sides, the “C” shaped device 21 having elements 12 and 13 may not be transported in a reciprocating manner in a scanning direction, since doing so would cause “C” shaped device 21 to interfere with flag end 11 of arm 10. Masanori simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest otherwise.

Accordingly, Masanori does not disclose, teach, or suggest providing a sensor mounted on the printhead carrier and locatable over the slot, as recited in claim 13.

In addition, Masanori does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the “C” shaped device 21 is a mid-frame or a slot in a mid-frame.

Accordingly, Masanori does not disclose, teach, or suggest detecting with the sensor one of a presence and an absence of the sense surface in the slot of the mid-frame as a determination of the depletion of the supply of print media at the print media support.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Masanori does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 13, as amended. Support for the amendment to claim 13 can be found in Applicant’s specification at page 3, lines 24-30.

Accordingly, claim 13 is believed allowable in its present form.

Claims 14 and 15 are believed allowable due to their dependence, directly or indirectly, on otherwise allowable base claim 13, as amended. In addition, claims 14 and 15 further and patentably define the invention over Masanori.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Masanori does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claims 13-15, and thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

Applicant has added new claims 19 and 20. Applicant believes that claims 19 and 20 patentably define Applicant’s invention over Masanori for at least the reasons set forth below.

New claim 19 is directed to the method of claim 13, wherein said sensor is a printhead alignment sensor.

Masanori simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the asserted sensor, elements 12 and 13, are a printhead alignment sensor.

Accordingly, claim 19 is believed allowable in its present form.

Support for the addition of claim 19 may be found in Applicant's specification at page 3, lines 28-30.

New claim 20 is directed to the method of claim 13, wherein said detecting with said sensor includes directing said printhead carrier to position said sensor over said slot.

Masanori simply does not disclose, teach, or suggest that detecting with a sensor includes directing a printhead carrier to position the sensor over the slot.

Accordingly, claim 20 is believed allowable in its present form.

Support for the addition of claim 20 may be found in Applicant's specification at page 7, lines 8-9.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that new claims 19 and 20 are allowable in their present respective forms.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the cited reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of the appended claims. The appended claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (317) 894-0801.

Respectfully submitted,

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